

NOTE ON THE GENUS *SYNECHOCERA*, WITH DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES.

By A. THERY, Correspondant du Muséum de Paris.

(Communicated by H. J. Carter, B.A., F.E.S.)

(One Text-figure.)

[Read 31st October, 1923.]

The species of the genus *Synechocera* H.D. are not common in collections. Only two are known at present, one from Amboina described in 1801, the other native of Australia (Swan River). In his "Genera," Kerremans who had not seen insects of this genus, gave only a very brief diagnosis, after H. Deyrolle, good for the time in which it was published, but to-day quite insufficient. Deyrolle did not mention the shape of the tarsal claws, very important for the classification of the tribe *Agrilini*, and omitted other important characters. However, he was struck by the shape, abnormal in this tribe, of the sternal cavity.

I think it is useless to redescribe the genus and hope it will be sufficient to give a complete description of the new species here described including some generic characters which have never been published.

*SYNECHOCERA TASMANICA*, n.sp.

Length, 9.5 mm., width, 2.25 mm. Very elongate, moderately attenuated anteriorly and posteriorly, very depressed above and beneath, entirely black, more shining dorsally and covered with a whitish and very scattered pubescence.

Head subglobulose, deeply sulcate in the middle, as if divided into two rounded lobes; eyes not prominent, epistoma hollowed, short and wide, impressed; antennal cavities very wide, contiguous; antennae moderately elongate, nearly reaching the anterior cotyloid cavities, 1st joint thick, 2nd at least as thick as the 1st and nearly as long, the following 3 elongated, the others rather close and dentate; the poriferous pits are very small, rounded, terminal and beginning at the 6th joint. Pronotum circular, completely bordered laterally, anterior margin feebly bisinuate and moderately projecting at the middle; anterior angles acute, posterior obtuse and blunted at the tip, the base feebly bisinuate, the disc with a groove crossing a depression situated anteriorly, the anterior margin transversely and finely striolated in the middle, surface without punctuation, looking corroded as the elytra; between the base of the pronotum and of the elytra, there is on each side a triangular space allowing the dorsal face of the mesosternum to be seen—a very rare character in the Buprestidae.

*S. tasmanica*

*Scutellum* wider than long, subtriangular, acuminate posteriorly.

*Elytra* narrower at the base than the pronotum, as broad

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as the latter at the posterior fourth, basal lobes rounded, shoulders scarcely angulate, the sides feebly sinuate, straight as far as the posterior fourth and moderately enlarged posteriorly, thence feebly attenuated to the apex where the sutural angle is well marked; the lateral margins are not denticulate. Elytra feebly bordered up to the posterior fourth; the last abdominal segment uncovered, rounded at the apex, which is narrowly testaceous. The disc of the elytra is impressed near the base with nearly inconspicuous median costae; surface without distinct punctuation, looking as if slightly corroded; the humeral callus smooth, shining and prominent. Mentum large and triangular, cheeks unarmed; prosternum without chin-piece, hollowed anteriorly, the prosternal prominence scarcely narrowed between the anterior coxae, rather wide, without marginal striae, the apex simple and angulate; the sternal cavities constituted only by the branches of mesosternum which are relatively long, converging posteriorly, not soldered together, but united beneath at a point; flanks of the mesosternum very long, longer than the half of the metasternum; posterior coxae rather narrow, slightly projecting anteriorly at the lateral margin, the posterior margin nearly straight, slightly hollowed at the internal side. Abdomen flattened and slightly depressed in the middle, the suture between the 1st and 2nd segments obliterated in the middle, these two segments together as long as the following three, the last segment completely rounded and produced at the apex by a thin, smooth and shining lamella; the whole surface slightly corroded and without distinct punctuation. The sides of the 3rd segment with a transverse wrinkle at the anterior margin.

Legs short, all femora fusiform, the anterior strongly grooved to receive the tibiae, the following much less strongly; anterior femora with a small lamellate expansion close to the knee; anterior tibiae with a rather strong spine on the external margin at the apex; tarsal joints short and nearly equal, claws simple, not appendiculate.

*Habitat*: Tasmania. A single specimen in my collection.

This new species is distinct from *S. elongata* Thoms. by its much larger size (9.5 mm. instead of 6 mm.) and different habitat. The colour is uniformly black, but Thomson's description is so short that it is impossible to make a complete comparison. I consider the genus *Synechocera* should be placed near *Strigulia* Kerr., with which it has a rather strong likeness in the shape of its circular pronotum, but it differs in the shape of the sternal cavity and the simple claws.

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